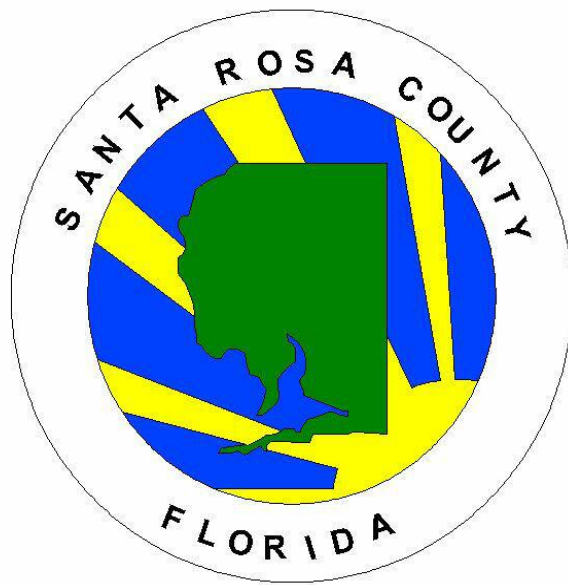


# MITIGATION ELEMENT



## MITIGATION ELEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

Disaster Mitigation is any action or measure that either prevents an occurrence of a disaster or reduces the severity of its effects. Through mitigation, Santa Rosa County strives to break the cycle of disaster-recovery-disaster by identifying hazard vulnerable areas and taking steps to minimize the damage prior to a disaster. This section can be modified at any time upon the direction of the emergency management director.

Many specific steps can be taken in Santa Rosa County to minimize vulnerability to hazards. Examples of mitigation infrastructure projects may include large-scale community actions such as storm water and floodplain management projects, building code enhancements, zoning, and local ordinances changes.

Possibilities also exist for structural mitigation as well. Measures, such as flood proofing, wind retrofitting, installation of back-up power generators and other infrastructure hardening projects help to reduce the vulnerability of individual locations to known hazards. Additionally, projects may be undertaken to elevate, relocate or acquire and demolish hazard-prone structures. Efforts such as these, attempt to reduce vulnerability in order to save lives, reduce property damage, and increase the quality of life in Santa Rosa County.

Mitigation activities within Santa Rosa County are conducted in accordance with the following statutory authorities: the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K), 44 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 201 and 206 (Interim Final Rule) and Florida Administrative Code Rule 9G-22.

### MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### Local Hazard Mitigation Goals

The following goals are taken verbatim from the 2005 Local Mitigation Strategy for Santa Rosa County and provide the broad range vision of what is to be accomplished during the five-year planning period from 2005 through 2010 by the LMS Steering Committee:

**Goal 1 – Continually provide mechanisms for local government jurisdictions and the public to accomplish mitigation activities in Santa Rosa County**

Accomplish by:

- Maintain bylaws that define membership and public participation methods
- Holding regularly scheduled LMS Steering Committee and Working Committee Meetings; Steering Committee meetings will be held quarterly at a minimum
- Forming Working Groups for sub-regions, municipalities, or for specific hazards named in the plan to reduce or eliminate vulnerability
- Maintaining a staffing presence to the LMS Steering Committee through contract or through staff hire or appointment
- Providing communications to county and municipal contacts and through media outlets to advertise opportunities to attend and participate in mitigation functions consistent with the Florida Sunshine Law
- Holding meetings throughout the County and in various municipalities to encourage local participation

**Goal 2 – Maintain communication between the LMS Steering Committee and key county and municipal departments to coordinate intra- and inter-departmental mitigation activities among various jurisdictions, and with the public**

Accomplish by:

- Ensuring all interests of various departments are represented by the appointed staff to the Steering Committee
- Ensuring all interests are aware of the LMS Working Group and a need to represent their own interests concerning various geographical areas or to address various hazards
- Maintaining up-to-date e-mail and postal addresses and phone numbers to ensure communication
- Establishing a website on the County's web server that discusses the LMS program

## MITIGATION ELEMENT

**Goal 3** – *Update the LMS plan, as necessary, to identify changes to hazards, vulnerabilities, goals, initiatives, priorities, accomplishments, withdrawals, additions, pending projects, funding sources, current disaster declarations, and adoption of revisions*

Accomplish by:

- Having the Steering Committee direct staff to update plan sections, tables, maps, etc., based upon current activities, trends, or issues
- Providing LMS staff feedback that provides localized information that is current
- Continually reviewing the plan and comparing it to other planning requirements (emergency management plans, comprehensive land use plans, community rating system plans) that contain mitigation provisions or may otherwise help to assert or hinder mitigation initiatives
- Notifying staff to the committee regarding issues that arise that may need their consideration or to solicit opinion
- Identifying and documenting potentially new hazards, including technological and homeland security issues not otherwise analyzed as a result of DMA2K

**Goal 4** – *Assist property owners, residents, businesses, non-profits, and others in understanding and knowing of their eligibility for grants, loans and services that may help to mitigate hazards that directly affect their interests*

Accomplish by:

- Working with existing programs within the County and Municipalities (Building Inspections, local Community Rating System/National Flood Insurance Program, Emergency Management, Chambers of Commerce, etc.) to connect mitigation to these efforts
- Being perceptive of and proactively engage new opportunities to promote mitigation interests
- Developing a website that conveys updated information about mitigation activities on a continual basis
- Staying abreast of available funding and service opportunities through participation in meetings, conferences, seminars, and research
- Maintaining initiatives/priorities
- Maintaining point of contact lists to facilitate rapid notification of available assistance

**Goal 5** – *Reduce or eliminate hazards identified to 'at risk' locations in the County and its municipalities*

Accomplish by:

- Targeting mitigation efforts and activities toward areas where hazards exist
- Working with agencies, professionals, and the public to develop the best solutions for identified hazards
- Examining and implementing appropriate technologies to identify, model, or otherwise simulate risks and zones of risk and incorporating these into the LMS plan

## MITIGATION ELEMENT

### GENERAL

Several activities and programs emphasize mitigation activities to help reduce risk and lessen vulnerability within Santa Rosa County. They consist of the ongoing activities that emphasize mitigation prior to a disaster and those that are available to mitigate once a disaster has occurred.

The following section covers those items that are consistently applicable regardless of whether the mitigation is being conducted pre- or post-disaster. In addition, this section describes the coordination and management within Santa Rosa County for mitigation actions.

### LEAD AGENCY

#### ***Santa Rosa Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force:***

The LMS Task Force was established in Santa Rosa County in accordance with Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Rule 9G-22. The Santa Rosa County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force is the community group responsible for overseeing all mitigation activities within the Town of Jay, the City of Gulf Breeze, the City of Milton, and unincorporated Santa Rosa County. It is a multi-jurisdictional effort with participation open to all interested individuals of Santa Rosa County. LMS is the forum through which mitigation activities are coordinated with stakeholders including citizens, local governments, non-profit, academia, and businesses.

The LMS Task Force is responsible for developing a plan called the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) that represents the entire jurisdictions' commitment to reducing risks from natural hazards. The plan must be compliant with criteria as stated in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K).

The LMS Task Force determines the overall strategy to be followed for mitigating hazards, conducts educational outreach, and reviews and prioritizes mitigation projects brought forward from each jurisdiction. The LMS Task Force evaluates mitigation projects from a multi-jurisdictional perspective and helps ensure that projects proposed within the jurisdiction are consistent with the strategy and address the community's highest priorities.

Although it is not a direct funding source, support from this body is necessary for seeking funding from many state and federal mitigation-funding programs. Specifically, an entity must request inclusion of any proposed mitigation project into the LMS' "Project Priorities" list. The authority to coordinate all mitigation activities (pre-disaster and post-disaster) is granted to the LMS Task Force in Florida Administrative Code Rule 9G-22.

#### ***Participation on the Local Mitigation Strategy***

Santa Rosa County participates as a key stakeholder and maintains representation on the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force. The City of Milton, the Town of Jay, the City of Gulf Breeze, businesses, non-profit agencies, citizens and other interested entities also participate on the LMS Task Force.

In conjunction with the other members, Santa Rosa County representatives help develop the local mitigation strategy, determine community priorities, and review and prioritize proposed mitigation projects.

As part of the Task Force, Santa Rosa County LMS Task Force representatives are tasked with:

1. Identifying opportunities for hazard mitigation
2. Sharing information on the natural hazards within the community with those on the LMS Task Force for updating of the LMS Strategy
3. Collecting and analyzing information related to the vulnerabilities of Santa Rosa County
4. Collecting damage information to document the locations and causes of damage from such sources as E-911 CAD records, professional reports, investigations, and engineering and zoning reviews as appropriate to support the LMS planning effort
5. Providing information on local ordinances, codes and other mitigation policies to the Task Force
6. Proposing mitigation strategies, measures, and projects designed to reduce or avoid vulnerability to hazards
7. Assisting the LMS Task Force in implementing and evaluating mitigation strategies
8. Obtaining funding and administering projects for Santa Rosa County
9. Incorporating mitigation, where applicable, into other county plans or ordinances

## SUPPORT AGENCIES

### FEDERAL

The Federal Government encourages mitigation by providing mitigation grant funds to state and local governments for efforts leading to a reduction in risk and vulnerability. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the mitigation grant programs that include such programs as the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM).

For each presidentially declared disaster, a Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer (DFCO) for mitigation is appointed to the state. The DFCO supports disaster mitigation efforts by bringing technical specialists in hazard mitigation and floodplain management. The DFCO assures that mitigation disaster operations are integrated and unified with the state and local recovery efforts.

### STATE OF FLORIDA

The Federal government has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designating the State of Florida as a managing state. Therefore, the State of Florida, through the Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation manages many of the mitigation grant programs at the state level and coordinates with Santa Rosa County on grant administration, technical assistance and implementation. In addition, the state reviews project applications for eligibility, cost-benefit, and environmental impact.

In order to qualify for mitigation programs offered by FEMA as required by federal law, the State of Florida maintains a State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The State of Florida also develops and maintains a State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (State CEMP), which includes a mitigation annex and requires Santa Rosa County to do the same.

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Santa Rosa County strives to minimize risk and reduce vulnerability. As the local government entity, Santa Rosa County plays an important role in hazard mitigation by leveraging county funds and applying for federal dollars to implement projects to minimize risk and reduce vulnerability. Santa Rosa County helps identify opportunities for mitigation and implement hazard mitigation projects where feasible. Such mitigation projects are the result of a multitude of factors including community priorities, benefit versus cost, available funding, political will, and available resources. Project development, support, and implementation are conducted through the various county departments.

In addition, the State encourages Santa Rosa County to participate in the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force and the development of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) in order to pre-identify vulnerabilities, make the best use of public funds, and continue to qualify for federal funds tied to the development of such strategies. Santa Rosa County is also required to include a mitigation element in its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (SRC CEMP).

#### 1. **Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners (SR BOCC):**

The Commissioners establish policies and procedures and approve any expenditure of public county funds, including those for mitigation projects. In addition, the Commissioners may direct county staff's attention toward issues brought forward by constituents for potential mitigation action. Once the LMS Task Force approves mitigation proposals for inclusion as a community priority, projects are brought before the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners in order to formally approve and release public funds.

## **SANTA ROSA COUNTY (Cont)**

### **2. Santa Rosa County Administration:**

The County Administrator implements the policies set by the Board of County Commissioners and for the day-to-day operations of the County Government. The Administrator of Santa Rosa County is responsible for directing staff efforts to propose, develop, and implement mitigation activities within the structures and resources under his control. The Administrator directs county participation on the Santa Rosa County LMS Task Force and provides oversight for development of mitigation proposals by county staff. In Santa Rosa County, the Administrator is actively involved in mitigation and serves as the Chair of the LMS Task Force.

### **3. Santa Rosa County Grants/Special Projects Coordination Division:**

The Santa Rosa County Grants/Special Projects Coordinator is actively involved in the development of mitigation proposals in conjunction with the relevant county departments. This individual serves as the citizen liaison for those requesting personal mitigation projects and coordinates with all appropriate departments necessary for project development and proposal to the LMS Task Force.

Following a disaster, this individual serves on the county team that analyzes the data provided by the mitigation assessment team to determine which mitigation actions should be developed into project proposals. The Santa Rosa County Grants/Special Projects Coordinator maintains primary responsibility for completion, submission, and administration of grant applications for all state and federal mitigation grants.

### **4. Santa Rosa County Planning and Zoning Department:**

The Director of the Santa Rosa County Planning and Zoning Department works in consultation with county departments and the LMS Task Force to incorporate information about hazard-prone areas into the plans and zoning of Santa Rosa County. The department provides information on applicable codes and ordinances and makes recommendations for enhancing existing codes and ordinances in order to incorporate mitigation elements.

The Planning Director participates in the analysis of post-disaster information (Mitigation Analysis Team) and supports mitigation initiatives with knowledge and expertise necessary to support project development.

### **5. Santa Rosa County Building Inspections Department**

The Santa Rosa County Building Department encompassing building inspections, compliance, code enforcement, and floodplain management strives to reduce loss of life and property by inspecting structures for hazardous conditions, ensuring compliance with and enforcement of State and local codes. In addition, the Building Department through the Santa Rosa County Floodplain Manager maintains primary responsibility for administering ongoing mitigation efforts associated with the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System (CRS) program of NFIP.

Post-disaster, members of the Building Inspections Department also participate as members of the Mitigation Assessment Team. In this capacity, they collect information on damages, which are analyzed for potential mitigation projects by the Mitigation Analysis Team.

### **6. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management:**

The Director provides input to the LMS Task Force and coordinates with other department heads on mitigation projects and proposals. In addition, Emergency Management supports mitigation outreach and provides brochures or other educational materials, as requested.

The Director maintains a working knowledge of the hazards, mitigation projects, and priorities of Santa Rosa County and helps facilitate the training of mitigation assessment teams. Post-disaster, the Director receives the information collected by the Mitigation Assessment Teams and calls (within 45 days of the disaster) for a meeting with the Mitigation Analysis Team.

## MITIGATION ELEMENT

### 7. **Santa Rosa County Public Works (Road and Bridges):**

On a daily basis, public works crews throughout the county assess and repair, or mitigate hazardous situations on the county's roads and bridges. This department is involved with the Mitigation Assessment Team and relays key issues to supervisory staff for possible mitigation action. Post-disaster, these workers are involved in clearing county roads and drainage ditches.

### 8. **Santa Rosa County Engineering:**

Engineering controls are often used to mitigate the effects of various hazards. The Santa Rosa County Engineer participates in the development of such controls and consults with various departments during the development of mitigation project proposals within the county. Post-disaster, the engineers provide technical assistance for mitigation project proposals, as requested.

### 9. **Santa Rosa County Procurement:**

The Santa Rosa County Procurement Officer participates in the bid process for mitigation projects and purchases the equipment necessary for mitigation assessment activities. Tracking of purchases both pre- and post-disaster is conducted through this department.

### 10. **Santa Rosa County GIS:**

Mapping is a key component to organizing and visualizing hazard-prone areas. The GIS Technicians support mitigation by making data layers and maps available to planners and project developers. Information on locations of bodies of water, roads, bridges, evacuation zones, fire departments, fire hydrants, zoning and future land use maps provide essential information for consideration.

### 11. **Santa Rosa Public Information Office:**

The Santa Rosa County Public Information Officer (PIO) maintains primary responsibility for communicating information from Santa Rosa County to the public. This individual works in conjunction with Santa Rosa County Departments to relay mitigation information from the LMS Task Force to the public, as requested by county departments.

### 12. **Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser's Office:**

The Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser is primarily responsible for identifying, locating, and valuing all property within the county for ad valorem tax purposes. Understanding the extent of potential or actual damage is important to the LMS Task Force as well as to those proposing or developing mitigation project proposals. Information from the Property Appraiser's office is used to estimate potential dollar losses to structures within hazard areas. This department also participates in the collection of damage assessment information during disasters that is useful in ongoing mitigation planning.

### 13. **Life Safety/Fire Prevention Department:**

The Life Safety Inspectors strive to reduce loss of life and property through public education, investigation, consultation, and training. Additionally, they enforce state laws and local codes while performing plan reviews and inspections. This function is an essential component of mitigation in Santa Rosa County.

### CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Santa Rosa County currently uses the Incident Command System (ICS) for direction and control for fire service response. In accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the county is in the process of converting to managing all field operations under ICS, including mitigation. This system will be effective for managing county personnel engaged in operations that involve multiple agencies working on interrelated tasks.

The reader must keep in mind that there is no dividing line amongst the five phases of emergency management. For example, there are sustained mitigation activities. There are also specific mitigation activities that arise as a result of the disaster at hand that can be undertaken while response and recovery activities are underway. Lessons learned in the conduct of such activities will likely provide information for the enhancement or initiation in several domains.

### COORDINATION OF MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

The authority to coordinate all mitigation activities (pre-disaster and post-disaster) is granted to the LMS Task Force in Florida Administrative Rule 9G-22.

#### Coordination with Municipalities

Santa Rosa County coordinates mitigation efforts with the City of Gulf Breeze, the Town of Jay, and the City of Milton, both pre- and post-disaster, through the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Task Force. Recognizing the fact that hazards do not adhere to jurisdictional boundaries, this multi-jurisdictional approach provides for consensus of key stakeholders in the mitigation goals, objectives, and priorities within all of Santa Rosa County.

Through participation and input from each jurisdiction, a local mitigation strategy is developed. This strategy represents the entire jurisdictions' commitment to reducing risks from natural hazards and serves as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards. The strategy also serves as the basis for the prioritization of mitigation projects when seeking state and federal funding.

Once Santa Rosa County identifies mitigation actions or projects to be conducted in the unincorporated areas, those projects are brought before the LMS Task Force for the project review and prioritization process. In this manner, the incorporated municipalities have the opportunity to review and provide input on any mitigation projects proposed within Santa Rosa County. Likewise, Santa Rosa

County representatives perform the same function for the municipalities represented on the LMS Task Force.

Following a disaster, new information or challenges may substantially affect the priorities or underscore a need to change the overall mitigation strategy. Again, this is conducted in conjunction with the stakeholders and municipalities through the LMS Task Force.

#### Coordination with the State

Pre-disaster coordination with the State for mitigation activities is conducted in several ways, including planning activities that support state mitigation efforts, such as the Local Mitigation Strategy and the CEMP Mitigation Annex. Another method is by enacting local codes and ordinances pertaining to mitigation, based on state codes and ordinances, such as the 2001 Florida Building Code.

In addition, Santa Rosa County may seek guidance and technical assistance from the State when seeking funding for mitigation projects through FEMA programs such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) and others. The Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation reviews and administers the grant at the state level for such projects as proposed by the Santa Rosa County Grants Coordinator.

Post-disaster mitigation activities generally center on seeking funding for projects through the HMGP Program. The State provides technical assistance, as previously stated, but also reviews project applications for eligibility, benefit and cost, and environmental impact. In addition, they monitor project implementation by receiving quarterly reports and managing the contracts. Coordination of these projects may be in conjunction with state mitigation staff as well as FEMA.



## MUTUAL AID COMPACTS FOR POST-DISASTER MITIGATION

Santa Rosa County is a signatory on the Statewide Mutual Aid Compact, through which outside assistance is both given and received. In addition, Santa Rosa County has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) to assist in making substantial damage and/or substantial improvement determinations under the National Flood Insurance Program after a disaster. A local mutual aid agreement also exists between Santa Rosa County and the Fire Chief's Association to provide fire service in the County. There are no other local agreements that exist specifically to assist in post-disaster mitigation activities.

## PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Much of the planning and hazards analysis is conducted during the preparedness stage under non-emergency conditions. During this time, county departments gather data, develop appropriate mitigation projects, locate funding sources, and request the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force consider their projects as a priority. If a funding source is located for priority projects, implementation begins to reduce future loss.

## ASSESSING MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES (PRE-DISASTER)

Santa Rosa County uses its available resources, such as personnel, equipment, and expertise from Administration, Public Works, Building Inspection, Planning, Emergency Management, Engineering, Fire, and other county departments to acquire information about areas with possible mitigation needs.

During the course of normal duties, such personnel are in a position to observe and identify areas for potential mitigation action. The individual departments submit their mitigation proposals to the Santa Rosa County Grants Coordinator who involves additional county departments as necessary for further project development.

Citizens or other non-county employees can also propose mitigation projects; such requests are forwarded to the Santa Rosa County Grants Coordinator, who works with the individuals to advise them of the process and to involve appropriate departments in the project development.

## ASSESSING MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES (PRE-DISASTER)

Once developed the Santa Rosa County Grants Coordinator brings all project proposals to the LMS Task Force, who will determine whether each project is added to the project priorities list and what priority ranking they should receive. For priority projects, the Santa Rosa County Grants Coordinator searches for a potential funding source, then completes, and submits the pertinent grant applications. Once awarded, project implementation continues through the relevant departments.

## AVAILABLE FEDERAL MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAMS (PRE-DISASTER)

Below are the main federal pre-disaster mitigation grant programs that are available to Santa Rosa County. Technical Assistance is available from the State of Florida Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, as well as from FEMA at the request of the State. There are other grant programs that can also be used as a project-funding source; they are included at the end of the mitigation section.

### Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (Pre-Disaster)

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) was created to assist communities pre-disaster in reducing or eliminating flood damage to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Planning, technical assistance and project grants are offered through FMAP.

Communities must be participants in good standing in NFIP to be eligible. Planning funds can be used by the county to develop or update Flood Mitigation Plans.

Project funds can be used for elevating, acquiring, or relocating NFIP-insured structures, with priority given to repetitive loss structures. It is particularly focused on those structures with four or more losses within a ten-year period, and structures with two or more losses where cumulative payments have exceeded the property value.

## Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

Authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC. This funding program assists local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities, including planning and projects that complement a comprehensive mitigation program prior to a disaster. These are national competitive grants and serve to decrease the reliance on mitigation funding that follows after a disaster declaration.

## SANTA ROSA COUNTY EXISTING MITIGATION PROGRAMS

### LMS Task Force

This is the multi-jurisdictional community group that oversees mitigation activities. The LMS Task Force's main mission is to identify hazards and vulnerabilities, determine the community strategy to address those risks, and prioritize projects according to community priorities. It is limited however, in that it has no regulatory or funding ability and that participation is voluntary.

The public is encouraged to participate in mitigation planning and to provide input on the strategies and projects undertaken in Santa Rosa County. The LMS Task Force meetings are held open to the public and are publicized via media outlets, e-mail, and postal mail. In addition, the LMS Initiatives Lists are open to public nomination. As stated previously, the LMS Task Force is also the vehicle for sharing information and trends among governmental jurisdictions and private entities about mitigation.

### Floodplain Management

Santa Rosa County has two certified floodplain managers on staff that is engaged in flood mitigation through permitting, plan review, and elevation determinations. They are primarily involved in administering the NFIP and Community Rating System (CRS) program, which are flood mitigation programs.

## National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a pre-disaster flood mitigation and insurance protection program designed to reduce the cost of disasters. The National Flood Insurance Program, which is a voluntary program, makes federally backed flood insurance available to residents and business owners in communities that agree to implement land use planning and construction requirements to reduce flood damage in their jurisdiction. These land use and construction requirements apply to all new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures in Santa Rosa's Special Flood Hazard Areas.

Santa Rosa County has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since October 14, 1977. The most current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map was published on July 17, 2002. Additionally, all incorporated municipalities (the City of Gulf Breeze, the Town of Jay, and the City of Milton) also participate in the NFIP.

Note: Municipalities are responsible for NFIP and CRS renewal and upgrades, as applicable, and are actively involved in Hazard Mitigation.

## Roles of County Departments in support of NFIP

The following are the roles of the various county departments with respect to supporting the federal mitigation efforts that are associated with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):

### Santa Rosa County Administration:

- Provides oversight of county departments in their efforts to support the NFIP
- Communicates with the Board of County Commissioners on NFIP issues

### Santa Rosa County Planning and Zoning:

- Develops and administers the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. This plan designates and regulates land use, densities, and access issues of interest to emergency management

## MITIGATION ELEMENT

### Santa Rosa County Building Inspections and Compliance

- Conducts inspections based on local codes and ordinances in accordance with maintaining the community's NFIP participation
- Has at least one certified floodplain manager on staff
- Administers and develops the Santa Rosa County Floodplain Management Plan, which identifies repetitive losses and methods to mitigate future losses
- Conducts flood zone determinations for building permits
- Reviews flood zone development applications to determine whether based on the plans, such development can proceed
- Assists with administration of Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement determinations under the NFIP
- Manages the Community Rating System for Santa Rosa County
- Maintains elevation certificates for Santa Rosa County and municipalities
- Answer questions regarding flood insurance, NFIP regulations, floodplain mapping and revisions to such maps
- Conducts public outreach regarding the availability of elevation certificates and flood mitigation

### Santa Rosa County Emergency Management:

- Participates in the pre-application process for development in the county; this process helps to raise emergency management concerns early in the community development process.

Below is a table of the National Flood Insurance Status of each local government in Santa Rosa County.

Community Id #	Community	Date of Entry	Current Effective Map	CRS Participant
120275#	City of Gulf Breeze	09/01/77	01/19/00	Yes/Class 9
120339A	Town of Jay	05/15/86	05/15/86 (M)	No
120276#	City of Milton	06/01/77	07/18/85	No/Applied
120274#	Santa Rosa County	10/14/77	07/17/02	Yes/ Class 7*

*\*Premium discounts are given to communities participating in the CRS program. Attainment of 1500-1999 points in the NFIP is required for Class 7 status. Those communities with a Class 7 CRS rating typically receive a 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA's) and a 5% reduction in non-special flood hazards areas, subject to certain exclusions and requirements.*

There are several limitations regarding the NFIP that have been noted by county staff. First, this program relies on FEMA flood zone maps for Santa Rosa County from 1977, which are outdated. A flood-mapping project was begun by FEMA to update the maps, however the new maps to be released in 2005 do not include the latest information gathered as a result of Hurricane Ivan (2004). Additional limitations were maps of the south end of the county that were not to scale and annexations by the City of Milton resulting in unincorporated areas not properly depicted on the maps.

### Community Rating System (CRS)

Santa Rosa County and the City of Gulf Breeze participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages through flood insurance discounts, floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. The City of Milton is actively pursuing such designation and expects to be a CRS participating jurisdiction by the end of 2006.

### Manmade disaster mitigation

Santa Rosa County participates in the RDSTF and supports all manner of protection and mitigation strategies to protect life, property, and the environment in Santa Rosa County. Santa Rosa utilized homeland security grants to promote preparedness and protection in conjunction with local, state and federal law enforcement. Some of the same mitigation steps used for natural disasters may be beneficial in mitigation manmade disasters.

## MITIGATION ELEMENT

As per State guidance in CEMP crosswalk, counties with approved LMS plans no longer are required to maintain a Mitigation annex in the CEMP.